

State of New Jersey  
Department of Children and Families  
Office of Licensing

License ID: 16FIR0001Complaint # 625

## COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION SUMMARY REPORT

Name of Center: Mud Pies Learning Center of Totowa		
Street: 785 Totowa Road		
City: Totowa	State: NJ	Zip: 07512
Director: Safiyyah Baldwin	Head Teacher:	
Phone: (973)790-7302	County: Passaic	

Name of Sponsor/Board President:		
Street:		
City:	State:	Zip:
License Status: Regular 9/4/2018		
Date Allegation(s) Received: 8/31/2017	Date(s) Investigation Conducted: 9/12/2017	

ALLEGATIONS	FINDINGS	RESULTS
1. Inappropriate staff action: Staff throughout the center yell at the children in a harsh tone and are not nice to the children.	1. At the time of the investigation appropriate and positive interactions between the staff and the children were observed in all classrooms. No staff were observed yelling at the children or speaking or acting in an inappropriate manner to the children. Staff responded to children in a positive and appropriate manner. Interviews with the director and staff indicated that no staff were ever observed yelling or speaking inappropriately to the children at any time. Documentation revealed that all staff were trained on the center's policies and procedures for positive guidance and interactions with children and implement this policy in their classrooms at all times. As a result of observation, interview and documentation this allegation could not be substantiated.	1. <u>Complaint Unsubstantiated</u>
2. Inadequate supervision: Staff use their cell phones on the outdoor play area while providing care for the children.	2. At the time of the investigation adequate supervision was maintained throughout the center, including on the outdoor play area. Staff were attentive to the children and no staff were observed using a cell phone while supervising children. A review	2. <u>Complaint Unsubstantiated</u>

ALLEGATIONS	FINDINGS	RESULTS
3. Inadequate hours for credentialed staff: The director is not at the center at least 50% of the center's daily operating hours as required.	of documentation indicated that all staff were trained on the center's supervision policy and implement this policy in their classrooms at all times. As result of observation, interview and documentation this allegation could not be substantiated.	
4. Inadequate staffing: The center does not have a director designee and there is no staff in charge when the director is not present.	3. At the time of the investigation the director was not present at the center, however arrived later during the investigation. Interviews with the director and a review of documentation, including the director's sign-in sheets, confirmed that the director is not at the center at least 50% of the center's daily operating hours as required. The center needs to ensure that the director is present at the center at least 50% of the daily operating hours as required and that adequate hours for credentialed staff are maintained at all times.	3. <u>Complaint Substantiated</u>
5. Unsanitary conditions: The bottles are not labeled and the children take each other's bottles. Additionally, the microwave oven is dirty.	4. At the time of the investigation no staff present on the premises was assigned to be in charge of the center's operations. Although interviews with the staff and documentation indicated that there is a director designee to oversee center operations when the director is not present, that named staff was not present. The center needs to ensure that adequate staffing is maintained at all times and there is director designee assigned in the absence of the director.	4. <u>Complaint Unsubstantiated</u>
	5. At the time of the investigation, sanitary conditions were maintained throughout the center. Bottles were appropriately labeled and no child was observed taking another child's bottle. Additionally, the microwave oven and all areas of the center appeared clean and sanitary. Interviews with the director and staff indicated that bottles are always labeled, children do not take each other's bottles and sanitary conditions are maintained at all times. As a result of observation and interview this allegation could not be substantiated.	5. <u>Complaint Unsubstantiated</u>

Observation at the center revealed that the center:

As a result of this inspection 1 violation(s) applicable to the

Is free of imminent hazards/risk of harm: Yes

Has adequate supervision: Yes

allegations was cited and 14 additional violation(s) was cited.

Meets staff/child ratio requirements: Yes

Is operating within licensed capacity: Yes

**Inspector(s) name(s) and title(s):**

Elissa Lombardo, Child Care Quality Assurance Inspector 2